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Soviet Pinched B-29's

New York, Feb. 14.
The New York Times said today that "at least three B-29s in operational condition vanished after emergency landings near Vladivostok" before Russia declared war on Japan.

"In at least two instances," the Times said, "Russian fighter planes opened fire on obviously friendly American planes and in one instance Russian anti-aircraft batteries opened up in daylight on a stricken Superfortress."

The Times said the crews were interned with other Army and Navy airmen at Tashkent in south-central Russia in a camp that at one time held 131 Americans.

The Times said the story was written by Sidney Shallet of its Washington staff, who said that while the war lasted, it was a top secret matter and even now War and State Department authorities are extremely reluctant to see it in print.

"Possession of the B-29s gave the Russians an excellent working model for the long-range and highly effective strategy of the bomber which they never developed for themselves during the war," Shallet said.—Associated Press.

KOWLOON "EVACUATION" DEMAND

Nanking, Feb. 14.
The Kuomintang-dominated Nanking Municipal Council has issued a manifesto calling on the United States and Russia to withdraw troops from China and for the restoration of Chinese sovereignty over Dairen, Hong Kong and Port Arthur.

The statement was the first instance of a Government group voicing such demands.

"It called for the evacuation of Kowloon and Macao and rejected all intervention in Chinese internal affairs."

It proposed the formation of a joint assembly to give representation to all "popular organs" and serve as an interim National Assembly.

The Council called for a broadened Government and separation of the army from "politics" and urged the Chinese Communists to surrender their forces.—United Press.

Nagas Have 315 Heads

New Delhi, Feb. 13.
Naga tribesmen in Assam, who helped the 14th Army Intelligence service in the Burma war against Japan have "collected" 315 heads in head-hunting operations since the end of the Far East war, Mr. Pandit Nehru said here today.

Stern warnings were being sent to the offending villages on both sides of the Assam-Burma border, saying that further head-hunting raids would result in punitive action being taken against the offenders, he added.—Reuter.

British Film Quota Draws Protest

Hollywood Feb. 14.
Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, said that further British restrictions against American pictures would injure the British industry as well as Hollywood producers.

Johnston, reporting to 500 top studio executives on his recent trip to England, pointed out that the United States has no tariff on other barriers against importation of foreign films.

"An increased quota in England would breed quotas in other countries," he said. "Every country with a struggling film industry would follow the British example and instead of England finding an expanding trend overseas for her film, she would meet with increased resistance."

"SAI ON" ENQUIRY OPENS

Evidence On Grilles And Storage

Steps Taken To Prevent Fire

The first step in the probe into the mystery of the fire on the river steamer "Sai On" on the morning of Feb. 4, which gutted the vessel and caused the loss of over 100 lives, was initiated yesterday morning when the Marine Court of Enquiry set up by Government, held its first sitting.

Public interest in the enquiry was evidenced by the large attendance of spectators who filled the small Court room long before the sitting commenced at 10 a.m., but the number fell sharply in the afternoon.

Among those who gave evidence yesterday were the master of the ill-fated vessel, Captain R. Wherry, chief officer William Anderson, the first, second and third engineers, and the Managing Director of the Tung On S.S. Co. Ltd., Mr. G. L. Fenton, owners of the "Sai On".

The Hon. Mr. M. M. Watson was in Court for the owners. The Court comprised the Harbour Master, Mr. J. Jolly, C.B.E., R.D. (President), and Lieut-Comdr. James Thomas (Crews, G.M., R.N., and Mr. Arthur Pittenger, master mariner (members). After the President had read the warrant constituting the Court, he called a 30-minute adjournment for the members to pay a visit to the "Sai On" to enable them to get better acquainted with the lay-out of the vessel. On their return the Court resumed at 10.35 a.m.

Captain's Evidence

The first witness called was Captain Robert Wherry, who said he had been master of the "Sai On" since Jan. 1, 1946. Prior to that he had served as master on various ships for five or six years. The "Sai On" was to his knowledge, built in 1924 by the Taikoo Dockyard & Engineering Co., Ltd. of Hong Kong; and apart from the war years had been continuously employed on the river trade.

On her last voyage down from Canton the "Sai On" arrived about noon on Feb. 2. She had passengers and cargo, discharge of which was completed the following afternoon. As usual he had conducted a routine inspection of the discharge operation.

Loading of cargo on the upward trip then commenced, and on being shown a list of the goods loaded on board Capt. Wherry verified it to be correct. He also confirmed disposition of the cargo on the 'tween deck as shown on a chart. Among this cargo were three drums of white mineral oil, but he was not sure whether they all contained this oil. These three drums were, however, not touched by the fire. He estimated the quantity to be about 40 gallons.

Loading was completed by about midnight of Feb. 3. The operation was under the supervision of the Chief Officer. Possibility of unmanifested cargo or dangerous goods being brought on board by passengers was reduced to a minimum by reason of the strict supervision.

vision and vigilance exercised by the ship's officers, guards and the Revenue officers.

Cargo Storage

Asked why cargo was stored on the 'tween deck where passengers were accommodated Captain Wherry said this was more or less a general practice. It was for the sake of convenience owing to the shortness of the voyage.

Loading was done both from the wharf and from junks, and during loading operation all the cargo parts were thrown open.

Asked as to the number of passengers on board Capt. Wherry said he estimated there were in all about 300 persons who included passengers, prospective passengers and their friends who came on board to see them off. People were embarking even after 3 a.m. when the Police made their routine inspection. He gave no permission for people to sleep on board all night.

Passenger tickets were sold by the Company's office and also by the ship's carpenter and he had no knowledge of the distribution or berthing of passengers on board. Food was made available to passengers after the ship was under way.

Speaking of cooking facilities Capt. Wherry told the Court there were five galleys, one of which was for Europeans and one for the crew.

These were at the forward end.

(Continued on Page 11, Col. 3.)

EXPORTED TO HONG KONG

Tokyo, Feb. 14.
Occupation officials disclosed that more than 240,000 yards of Japanese fabrics, also in the Japanese Government Agency, which is now being liquidated, will be exported to Hong Kong.

The shipment is valued at US\$500,000. The proceeds will be earmarked for the purchase for Japan of raw wool from Australia, necessary for the rehabilitation of the Japanese wool industry.—United Press.

Pamphlet Bombs In Cinema

Jerusalem, Feb. 13.
Several pamphlet bombs exploded harmlessly tonight at 1,000 persons left Jerusalem's Edison Theatre where the Palestine Philharmonic had presented its weekly concert.

The bombs discharged the text of last night's Zionist broadcast. Tel-Aviv's main thoroughfare, Allenby Street, was placed in bounds to British troops in an unexpected move.

Today, soldiers wearing rubber-soled shoes carried out surprise raids on Tel-Aviv's 100 cafes, restaurants, cinemas and other amusement centres, seizing two suspected extremists.

Two teen-aged Zionist pamphleteers were detained when caught plastering walls with terrorist proclamations.

The "canonization" security scheme designed to catch any extremists, was enforced in Jerusalem, Jaffa and Haifa.

Meanwhile, another hundred houses were requisitioned by the Army in Jerusalem's Rehavia quarter as the Army prepared to take over the premises of the Jewish National Fund.

Reports here said that 710 illegal immigrants from Cyprus left that island for Haifa and 330 would come next week, all to be taken in as "quota immigrants".—United Press.

Fuel Crisis Takes Turn For Better

London, Feb. 13.
The British fuel crisis took a turn for the better today and the Government was expected to decline with thanks President Truman's offer of American coal shipments. Cabinet Ministers and Mr. Attlee's new Joint Commission on the coal emergency probably will discuss Mr. Truman's offer of American assistance tomorrow.

Speculation that Britain would decline the offer was based on these factors:

Seamen's Strike Ends

Portland, Feb. 14.
Twenty-one British seamen ended their strike on the freighter Hartington against taking coal to Singapore instead of to Britain. British Consul James McDonald said the men agreed to terminate the strike when it was explained the coal crisis in England would be over before the freighter could arrive in the British Isles.

The seamen struck on Tuesday. Mr. McDonald reiterated coal is needed by Singapore to carry food to Britain.—Associated Press.

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MINERS STRIKE

New York, Feb. 14.
Six thousand miners at Lansford, Pennsylvania, stopped work today in sympathy with 18 miners who were on a sit-down strike 800 feet underground.—Reuter.

BRITANNIC IN CIVVY STREET

Liverpool, Feb. 14.
The liner "Britannic" touched Liverpool from Bombay last night at the end of her last voyage as a troopship after seven years' military service.

The vessel will be converted into a luxury liner White Star Line's Atlantic liner in the Liverpool shipyard of Cunard Line, providing work for more than 1,000 men.—Reuter.

G.B.S. Has A Brain Wave

London, Feb. 14.
George Bernard Shaw took notice of Britain's fuel crisis today and in a letter to the Times offered a Shavian solution—harnessing the tides in Kyle of Tongue at the northern tip of Scotland.

Shaw said he suggested a tidal project to engineers many years ago "but they went on grubbing for power in the coal mines, and now that the atomic bomb and Mr. Shinwell's prayers have awakened them up they are dreaming of nuclear energies, frightfully dangerous and enormously expensive. They do not seem to know that our tides, almost unique in the world, exist."

"My suggestions usually take 30 years to attract any attention. By this time an engineering trip to Thurso and Kyle of Tongue is a bit overdue. The climate is delightful, almost sub-tropical thanks to the Gulf Stream. Not at all Scottish!"—United Press.

Cabinet Discuss Palestine

London, Feb. 14.
The Cabinet is expected to reach a new decision on Palestine at its meeting today. It will have before them Mr. Ernest Bevin's report on the flat rejection by the Arabs and Jews of the Cabinet's recent plan for Palestine and the further course of this issue, presumably an appeal to the United Nations.

The Palestine conference will meet this afternoon in its final session when Mr. Bevin will inform the Arab delegates on the Cabinet's decision.

The final meeting between the British Government and the Jewish Agency representatives took place last night when the Jewish leaders reiterated their reasons for complete rejection of the Cabinet's proposals.

British sources believed that three possible courses were open to the Government:

1. An appeal to the United Nations to examine and adjust proposals for solution of the Palestine problem produced so far by Britain, the Arab delegates and the Jewish Agency.
2. Immediate withdrawal by Britain from Palestine with a simultaneous report of the decision to the United Nations.
3. Notice of withdrawal from Palestine at a given date.

The minimum Jewish demands were for safeguards for further immigration, abolition of land restriction and prospect for a viable Jewish state in a part of Palestine.

Discussions on a lower level between British officials and the Jewish Agency representatives are expected to be continued in the next few days for possible temporary arrangements during the interim period between now and a final solution.—United Press.

THE WEATHER

A moderate anticyclone covers China and Mongolia and is extending southward and eastward. A depression is moving ENE to the S of Japan and deepening. Pressure is also low over the Sea of Japan and to the S of the Coriolis.

Today's Forecast:—Winds N and NE; moderate to fresh or strong off-shore; fair at first becoming cloudy; rather cold.

Yesterday's Weather:—Maximum: 66 deg. Fals. Minimum: 52 deg. Fals. Sunshine: 0.8 hours.

Rainfall: Nil. Total since Jan. 1—77.5 mm. as against an average of 54.5 mm.

Headwinds at 10 a.m.: 4 km. h. Wind direction: 07 51 24. Dew Point: 46 51 deg. F. Wind Force: N W.

Wind Force: 6 4 knots.

Antarctic World's Food Frig.?

Little America, Feb. 14.
Admiral Byrd envisions the eternally ice-capped wastes of the Antarctic as a great refrigerator in which the world could store bumper crops against lean years, possibly saving future generations from famine.

The head of the United States Navy's South Polar expedition said: "Nations of the world may some day use this great refrigerator. When countries have crops in abundance, they could put surplus supplies here to be used in famine years."

"The world's supply of food thus would be evened out," Admiral Byrd pointed out food-stuffs he purchased 20 years ago before his first Antarctic expedition were found perfectly preserved in snow tunnels in his original Little America base.

He said evidence indicated the Antarctic continent once was in tropical climes and predicted: "The time will come when we will find fossils remains here."

Use For At-Bomb
He suggested the atomic bomb could be put to excellent use blowing off the top of the ice cap. Admiral Byrd asserted he be-

FOREIGN OFFICE GOES ALL COY

London, Feb. 14.
High officials of the Foreign Office today imposed a news ban on further developments in Anglo-Soviet and Anglo-French treaty negotiations. No reason for the ban was given by the spokesman who described it as "an onset of eagerness." It appeared that the blackout may have been imposed in view of the delicate state of relations between London and Moscow—a tension which probably had been heightened by news of the Canadian-American military agreement.

News of the agreement and the emphasis which it places on Arctic defence measures cannot fail to be received with suspicion in Moscow. Its timing may, in the opinion of observers here, result in a setback for the Anglo-Russian negotiations—in which Britain expects the Soviet Union to ask for an all-out military alliance.

News of the Canadian-American pact was received in official silence here. Although the spokesman admitted Britain was informed of the negotiations, he stressed that "we neither were asked for nor tendered any advice or comment."

The ban on news of the Anglo-French negotiations may have been designed to prevent Moscow from gaining the impression that Britain placed more emphasis on this pact than on revision of the Anglo-Soviet treaty. Soviet policy looks with disfavour on tendencies toward closer union between Western European

powers, terming them anti-Soviet in nature.

Sort Of Coyness
Asked to comment on reports that the French Ambassador, Rene Massigli, was scheduled to receive the British draft of the proposed Anglo-French treaty today, the spokesman said: "I can only say that he had not called at the Foreign Office this morning."

Opening the daily press conference the spokesman said: "I regret to announce a certain onset of eagerness within the Foreign Office. I am instructed to say it is unlikely we shall report the progress achieved between London and Moscow on the subject of Stalin's reservations. This also applies to progress on the Anglo-French treaty."

The Yugoslav News Agency correspondent asked for the definition of "eagerness."

"It's a sort of coyness or reluctance," the spokesman said smiling.

Observers expected Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin would take up the possibility of revision of the Anglo-Soviet treaty at a meeting with Premier Stalin during the Foreign Ministers' Council meeting in Moscow next month.


Stalin, in his recent correspondence with Mr. Bevin, said he felt certain "reservations" in the treaty—originally designed to provide joint British-Russian military action in the event of German military resurgence, must be eliminated. Mr. Bevin subsequently asked Stalin for full information concerning the changes desired by Russia. "No further reply has been reported."

—United Press.

CHINA FLIGHTS OFF

New York, Feb. 14.
The Trans-Pacific Air Lines at San Francisco announced that the Company has abandoned its plan to operate flights between Oakland, California and China "because of failure to obtain the necessary landing rights" in China.—Central News.

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EXCHANGE DEALINGS STOPPED

Inquiry Into Market Collapse

Nanking, Feb. 13. General Cheng Chia-min, new director of the top secret Bureau of Investigation and Statistics and successor of General Tai Li (killed in an air crash near Nanking last year), has been sent to Shanghai by Chiang Kai-shek to conduct a thorough probe into the sensational runaway market which shot gold to \$960,000 per ounce and U.S. dollars to \$17,000 last week and which boosted commodity prices on the average a hundredfold.

Well-informed quarters said the Government, determined to check the current market confusion, was hamstringing by the influence of powerful financial groups who stand to lose in case the Government cracks down mercilessly on black market operations.

They said these groups, who control and manipulate the market for personal profit regardless of the welfare of the nation, were backed by bureaucratic capital and influence. Government circles also charged that the Communists and other opposition who would like to see a Government economic collapse, are behind some of these groups.

Well-informed sources claimed the current violent fluctuations were mainly the result of manipulation by these groups.

According to the dispatch, Cheng Chia-min, who has at his disposal a well-organized network of investigation agencies throughout the nation, indicated that Chiang considered the situation extremely grave and was determined to crack down on these groups.

Meanwhile, Legislative Yuan members are demanding drastic measures such as nationalization of gold, though financial circles doubted that this could be carried out without the issuance of huge amounts of banknotes, thus aggravating inflation. Legislative Yuan members are also planning to organize an investigation committee to probe market operations in Shanghai and draw up a blacklist of manipulators for punishment.

Commodity Rise
The Ta Kung Pao, quoting well-informed circles, said gold nationalization was difficult to execute also due to the fact that gold was now mostly cornered by a few powerful groups, but the Government may be able to take emergency measures to restrict further gold transactions.

Meanwhile, rumours that the Government was taking "drastic measures" temporarily forced down gold prices in China to around \$700,000 per ounce, commodity prices, which skyrocketed during last week's sensational gold price hike, remained at the same levels and are showing signs of going higher.

In Shanghai the price of rice—the most important staple food—was quoted at \$170,000 per picul or 120% higher than the official ceiling. —United Press.

Rice Sales
Shanghai, Feb. 14. Acting on instructions from Mayor K. C. Wu and Police Commissioner Honan Tse-wu, local police were dispatched today to various rice shops to supervise and enforce the sale of rice to the general public at official prices.

Meanwhile the police bureau is checking on the reported exodus of rice from the city and encouraging the people to report rice hoarders to the authorities. —Central News.

Trade Hampered
New York, Feb. 14. American businessmen in San Francisco said trade with China has virtually ceased because of the recent sharp fluctuations in the Chinese currency, according to a dispatch from San Francisco.

Harry Radcliffe, Executive Secretary of the National Council of American Importers, reportedly said cancellations by

MARINE KILLED

Peiping, Feb. 14. A United States Marine was shot and killed here Thursday night by an unidentified Chinese Marine. Relations are strained.

Early reports received by the Marine Corps said the Marine and two friends were approached by a Chinese who drew a gun and fired. The Marine died 20 minutes later. A Marine board is investigating. —Associated Press.

Withdrawal Of British Troops

Tokyo, Feb. 14. The British Fifth Infantry Brigade and a proportionate number of administrative troops will be withdrawn from Japan, due to the extensive Japanese demand for troops in other parts of the world, it was announced here by Major Gen Paul J. Mueller, Chief of Staff at General MacArthur's Headquarters.

An official statement from the headquarters of the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces said:

"With the agreement of all the British Commonwealth Governments concerned and with the combined concurrence of the United States of America, it has been decided to withdraw from the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces one British Infantry brigade and a proportion of supporting administrative troops."

This withdrawal, which has been necessitated by the very extensive demand on British manpower in other parts of the world, has been facilitated by the progress made in their task by the Allied forces occupying Japan. In spite of this withdrawal, the British Army will still be substantially represented in the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces and the United Kingdom naval and air components will remain unaltered.

Gen. Mueller said the reduction in force was in proportion with the United States reduction of strength in the Pacific. —United Press.

POLICE STOP GANG FIGHT

What might have flared up into a serious gang fight between two rival crime societies in Canton Road yesterday afternoon was averted by the prompt arrival of the Emergency Unit under S/1 Clarke and special patrols from the Tsingtao Police Station.

According to the No. 1 foreman of the Kowloon Gwongwui, a member of the Wo Shing society infringing on the territorial rights of the Hip Shing association, and was threatened by some 15 members of the latter guild. He reported the matter to his own society and a vendetta was arranged for after work.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Peninsula Hotel arrivals: S. G. Muelem, J. Berlage, D. A. Hezler, G. B. Ramchandani and G. M. Pilester.

Peninsula Hotel departures: Mrs. M. W. W. Mrs. J. J. J. Mrs. O. M. O. Mrs. L. L. L. Mrs. R. R. R. Mrs. S. S. S. Mrs. T. T. T. Mrs. U. U. U. Mrs. V. V. V. Mrs. W. W. W. Mrs. X. X. X. Mrs. Y. Y. Y. Mrs. Z. Z. Z.

Prices Up
Despite the improvement in the value of the Chinese dollar, prices continued at high levels induced by last Tuesday's spectacular descent and, in some instances, even increased.

Movie houses in Shanghai announced that present admission prices would be doubled from Feb. 16. They said the boost was necessitated by the higher expenses occasioned by the incessant hike in commodity prices and the mounting cost of living.

Chinese newspapers generally raised their prices from CN\$300 to CN\$500 a copy. Hikes in restaurants since the recent currency landslide showed many instances where prices more than doubled. In one typical foreign style restaurant increases were:

Cup of coffee from CN\$1,500 to CN\$3,500; a plate of soup from CN\$5,000 to CN\$10,000; hamburger steak from CN\$4,000 to CN\$10,000; plain lunch from 12,000 to \$19,000; cheese sandwich from \$2,000 to \$5,000; slice apple pie from \$1,100 to \$4,000.

These prices exclude the municipal tax.

Milk Overcharge Was For Sugar

"No respectable restaurant charges for sugar, pepper or salt," said Mr. F. X. d'Almada at Central to Kwok Wah-fun of the Great Eastern Hotel, No. 113 Connaught Road Central, when he gave the excuse that the overcharge of 30 cents on a bottle of fresh milk was for the sugar.

Before fining him \$500, and this was his second offence, Mr. d'Almada advised him that if he wanted to charge extra for the sugar he should put up a notice to that effect.

Mr. d'Almada added that he felt sure in that case not many customers would patronise his restaurant.

Other summons for breach of price control were: Liu Yau-wan No. 285 Main Street for selling a tin of Three Castles cigarettes for \$2.90 (Controlled price \$2.80) was fined \$15.

Lee Yee of 42 Des Voeux Road Central, a lb of sweets for \$2.50 (\$2.40)—fined \$25.

Leung Chan of 17 Kam Wah Street, a lb of sweets for \$2.00 (\$1.50)—fined \$40.

Leung Wing-cheung, of 15 Island Road, for selling a tin of Three Castles cigarettes for \$3.00 (\$2.80)—fined \$20.

Light Bulb
Chan Shu, of 236 Queen's Road Central, for selling a sheet of glass for \$1.40 (55 cents)—fined \$25.

Ng Chi-ye, 142 Shaukiwan Road, for selling a tin of Shinola polish for 70 cents (60 cents)—fined \$15.

Lai Yat-fan, of 254 Des Voeux Road Central, for selling a prophylactic tooth brush for \$1.55 (\$1.20)—fined \$50.

Ng Man-shun, of 317 Queen's Road West, for selling an electric bulb for \$2.50 (\$1.25)—fined \$25.

Tsung Wah of 39 Queen's Road Central, for selling a cake of Cashmere soap for \$2.00 (55 cents)—fined \$75.

Thursday's spectacular recovery in Chinese National Currency was short-lived, for yesterday it gave way once more to overwhelming bearish influence. Spot fell back to 48½ cents and futures to 37 cents (for CN\$1,000).

The landslide in gold increased in impact as yesterday it dropped another 6½ points, closing at \$294.50. It had closed at \$301 the previous day.

Piastres fluctuated between \$12.52 and \$12.95 per 100. These were the opening and closing rates respectively.

U.S. dollars were stronger at \$4.02½, as was Sterling at \$15.15. Australian pounds eased off to \$12.55.

MECHANIC SENTENCED
Shan Chui, a mechanic, was sentenced to four months' imprisonment by Mr. H. G. Sheldon at Central yesterday for assaulting a tram motorman. He was discharged on the count of avoiding payment of fare.

S/1 Sell said that defendant boarded a tram at 7:20 a.m. yesterday at Tin Lok Lane. He stood beside the driver who told him to go upstairs. When the tram arrived at Percival Street he was told to get off. A quarrel ensued and defendant struck the driver.

Off the tram accused picked up half a brick and threw it at the motorman. Police whistles were blown and accused was arrested by a Chinese police constable and taken to the station.

ACCIDENT
When private car 921, driven by Li Kook-long and proceeding in the direction of Shamshuipo, was near the intersection of Nathan Road and Argyle Street at about 11:20 a.m. on Thursday morning, a Chinese male, Fan Kwan, ran out from the pavement and was knocked down by the head lamp and mudguard of the car.

He sustained serious injuries and was rushed to hospital where he died late that night. The head lamp of the car was badly damaged.

Another Victim
A lorry-bus accident outside the Imperial Ballroom, Nathan Road on Thursday night claimed its third victim yesterday morning when 17-year-old Kwan Wu, formerly of 38 Gage Street, third floor, succumbed to his injuries.

The two Chinese males who were reported dead were identified in the presence of S/1 Dow, who, incidentally, with S/1 Oliver, were the first two police officers on the scene and who escorted the injured to the hospital, as Lam Kau, 30, of 169 Temple Street, and Chu Kau, 23, of 548 Shanghai Street, second floor.

Readers' Letters
Sir, I am a member of the locals and has received no increment as hoped, and apart from the increased cost of rice etc. I am about to have my H.C.L. and Rehab allowances cut from this month; it makes me desperate to think that my salary will be further taxed in the near future.

I am not ashamed to say the fact that I am wearing rags as under-clothing, and soon will be without any.

As an alternative to the salary tax, would it be more appropriate to tax (in duty stamps) all receipts over \$5—on their face values, minimum tax 10 cts. e.g. a receipt of \$5 will bear a 10 cts. stamp, and a receipt of \$5,000 a \$5 stamp. This form of taxation is used in one of our neighbour colonies.

BONZO
Income Tax
Sir, Concerning the imposition of Income Tax I think it is unjust to oppose it in principle as the system has been tried and found out to be most equitable and enforceable in most civilised countries. The question of evasion is not a good one. Even Al Capone was con-

victed for evading the payment of Income Tax when the authorities could not catch him for murdering and other grave offences. No Hongkongite would be so able as the American gangster in beating the law.

As your letter points out the real cause for uneasiness is the alleged scale which will eventually hit the middle class and low-paid persons. Hong Kong dollar's purchasing power has in fact lost eighty per cent of its pre-war value. The scale should at least be varied accordingly.

Perhaps the most equitable revenue would be a tax, say ninety-nine per cent of the sale value of the land and houses purchased in the occupation days. While in Macao and China such purchases were confiscated and buyers punished, Hong Kong has them, contenting to be the up-stairs of the society. It is the most disgraceful act of omission of the Government. It fosters further dishonesty and treachery. I would suggest that with the imposition of Income Tax the Government gets busy with regulation, rehabilitation and heavy taxation of occupation land deals.

Three armed men held up a Chinese named Ho Ching in San Lau Street near 600 Avenue yesterday afternoon and robbed him of \$1,000 cash and a gold watch valued at \$400.

POSSESSION OF OPIUM
Lai Wai-hui, a 22-year-old married woman residing at No. 2 Lock Road, ground floor, was yesterday fined \$1,500 or two months' imprisonment by Mr. F. X. d'Almada for possession of 13 tins of opium in Kan U-fong on Thursday.

According to the prosecution she alleged the suspicions of a Chinese detective who was searching persons in that area. He checked her in the police station where the opium was found on her.

The Kowloon Poor Box was enriched by \$64,500 yesterday as the result of a raid conducted by Chinese detectives. Chan Yung, Lee Hing, Kong, Ho-yue and Tai Pak-bong on street gambling stall at Hong Lok Lane on Thursday night when the keeper and 14 gamblers were arrested. On their "appearance" before Mr. Blair Kerr, the keeper, Chan Wei, was fined \$50 and each of the gamblers \$10.

Three armed men held up a Chinese named Ho Ching in San Lau Street near 600 Avenue yesterday afternoon and robbed him of \$1,000 cash and a gold watch valued at \$400.

STU CHUNG-FEI

CONSTABLE FOUND IN HARBOUR

The body of an Indian, with seven stab wounds in his back and one between his eyes, was recovered from the harbour off the north wall of the Royal Naval Dockyard at about 8:40 a.m. on Thursday. The body was later identified as that of a Royal Naval Dockyard constable No. 266 Mohd Khan, who was last known to have been seen at 6:30 a.m. on the same morning on board a landing craft lying off the east wall of the Dockyard.

La Salle Old Boys' Asscn.

Mr. F. M. Castro was elected President of the La Salle Old Boys' Association at the first post-war meeting held on Thursday at the H.K. Hotel.

The Rev. Bro. Cassian was elected Hon. Chairman, and other officers were appointed as follows: Vice-President, P. K. Chan; Secretary, R. A. Castro; Treasurer, A. Barton; Committee, G. L. Fong, A. Sales, S. Leung, J. Gomez.

In the course of a brief speech of welcome to those who attended Mr. F. M. Castro said that several members of the 1941 Committee, and many old boys of La Salle, died on the battlefield in Hong Kong and I propose that we erect a fitting memorial at the foot of the College statue of St. John Baptist de La Salle to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades. It is left to those who survived to live on in the ideals that they so nobly fought for and for which they paid the supreme sacrifice.

Some time ago there was an advertisement in the newspapers calling for re-registration of all Old Boys and ex-members of the Association. Those who so kindly gave the notice their attention, I would like to thank. I would also like to take this opportunity to express our grateful thanks to one who has always stood by ready and willing to extend the Association a helping hand in all matters and at all times, the good Rev. Bro. Cassian.

Mr. Castro went on to say that an Old Boys' Association is not so much a club for parties, games, debates and the like; but more of a solid group of registered Old Boys holding an occasional social gathering to renew the pleasant and happy comradeship of school days. This could be done over a smoking concert, a lecture by some prominent speaker, and an Annual Dance where the old boys set together with their respective families and friends. And furthermore, of much greater importance, as we grow to be older boys there may be opportunities to help the younger ones to get a footing in life out of College.

Money Market
Thursday's spectacular recovery in Chinese National Currency was short-lived, for yesterday it gave way once more to overwhelming bearish influence. Spot fell back to 48½ cents and futures to 37 cents (for CN\$1,000).

The landslide in gold increased in impact as yesterday it dropped another 6½ points, closing at \$294.50. It had closed at \$301 the previous day.

Piastres fluctuated between \$12.52 and \$12.95 per 100. These were the opening and closing rates respectively.

U.S. dollars were stronger at \$4.02½, as was Sterling at \$15.15. Australian pounds eased off to \$12.55.

MECHANIC SENTENCED
Shan Chui, a mechanic, was sentenced to four months' imprisonment by Mr. H. G. Sheldon at Central yesterday for assaulting a tram motorman. He was discharged on the count of avoiding payment of fare.

S/1 Sell said that defendant boarded a tram at 7:20 a.m. yesterday at Tin Lok Lane. He stood beside the driver who told him to go upstairs. When the tram arrived at Percival Street he was told to get off. A quarrel ensued and defendant struck the driver.

Off the tram accused picked up half a brick and threw it at the motorman. Police whistles were blown and accused was arrested by a Chinese police constable and taken to the station.

ACCIDENT
When private car 921, driven by Li Kook-long and proceeding in the direction of Shamshuipo, was near the intersection of Nathan Road and Argyle Street at about 11:20 a.m. on Thursday morning, a Chinese male, Fan Kwan, ran out from the pavement and was knocked down by the head lamp and mudguard of the car.

He sustained serious injuries and was rushed to hospital where he died late that night. The head lamp of the car was badly damaged.

"Venerable" Leaves
The aircraft carrier "Venerable" (Captain J. L. Storey, C.B.E., D.S.O., R.N.) left Hong Kong yesterday for further service in the British Pacific Fleet.

The "Venerable" is being relieved by H.M.S. "Theseus", a carrier of the same class.

H.M.S. "Glorious" (Captain W. T. Couchman, D.S.O., D.B.E., R.N.) wearing the flag of Rear-Admiral A. R. M. Bridge, C.B.E., Flag Officer (Air) Far East, will leave Hong Kong on Tuesday for a period of duty with the East Indies Fleet.

Rear-Admiral G. E. Creasy, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.V.O., will, as already announced, relieve Rear-Admiral Bridge as Flag Officer (Air) Far East early in March. Admiral Creasy will travel out from U.K. in the "Theseus".

It is expected that the "Glorious" and "Theseus" will return to the British Pacific Fleet early in the summer.

POSSESSION OF OPIUM
Lai Wai-hui, a 22-year-old married woman residing at No. 2 Lock Road, ground floor, was yesterday fined \$1,500 or two months' imprisonment by Mr. F. X. d'Almada for possession of 13 tins of opium in Kan U-fong on Thursday.

According to the prosecution she alleged the suspicions of a Chinese detective who was searching persons in that area. He checked her in the police station where the opium was found on her.

The Kowloon Poor Box was enriched by \$64,500 yesterday as the result of a raid conducted by Chinese detectives. Chan Yung, Lee Hing, Kong, Ho-yue and Tai Pak-bong on street gambling stall at Hong Lok Lane on Thursday night when the keeper and 14 gamblers were arrested. On their "appearance" before Mr. Blair Kerr, the keeper, Chan Wei, was fined \$50 and each of the gamblers \$10.

Three armed men held up a Chinese named Ho Ching in San Lau Street near 600 Avenue yesterday afternoon and robbed him of \$1,000 cash and a gold watch valued at \$400.

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Gendarmes Accused Of Tortures

Allegations that Sgt-Major Oba Takao had instigated an Alsatian dog to attack a prisoner at the Eastern Kempeitai Headquarters and that on two occasions Oba had given prisoners the water torture, were made before No. 5 War Crimes Court yesterday by a Chinese witness, a former employee at the Gendarmerie, when the trial resumed of Oba and his commanding officer, Captain Shibata Shigeb.

Evidence was also given that prisoners at Happy Valley were left in the open with cold water doused over them in winter and that detainees on minor charges were herded together in a pit without a roof to protect them from the weather.

The first witness called yesterday, Lau Wing, a former policeman, said that he had been attached to the Eastern Gendarmerie from May, 1944. He knew Oba who had a reputation for being "very fierce." He only saw a prisoner being beaten on one occasion. He was tied to a tree in the courtyard and had been brought in for stealing wood.

The next witness, Lau Yiu-ting, an employee at the same Gendarmerie for two periods between July, 1942, and Feb., 1945, gave evidence having witnessed the water torture being given to an Indian named Salleh who had been arrested as an espionage suspect. He was tortured by a Sergeant Miyada.

Lau said that he had been called by Miyada to interpret while Salleh was being questioned. This was some time early in 1944.

Teng Kuen, the next witness, also an employee at the Eastern Gendarmerie, said that since June in 1943 or 1944 some 20 Indians were arrested. He did not know who had arrested them but had heard from an interpreter named Chan Ting-on that three of them, Kotewall, Salleh and another were executed.

Witness recalled having heard of an incident when a Miss Chan, a prisoner, had tried to commit suicide by banging her head against the wall. A medical officer was called in to attend to her; he was told of this by a man working in the kitchen.

He had seen other prisoners being beaten with poles and having cold water poured over them in winter. On two occasions he saw the water torture being given.

He saw dead bodies being removed from the cells on four occasions, witness said, and had helped in removing three bodies on the last of these.

On one occasion he saw Oba instigating a dog on to a prisoner, whose clothes were torn and who was bleeding.

Hearing of the case continues on Monday.

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He Lost A Mahjong Set
On Dec. 11, last year, the master of Kwong Fook Hing Firm, No. 314, Queen's Road, Central, hired a mahjong set and a table from Pong On Tong Firm, No. 11, Morrison Street.

The same night, there was a burglary at the Kwong Fook Hing Firm and the mahjong set and other articles were stolen. The table top was not taken.

As a result, the hirer could only return the table top.

Before Mr. Justice E. H. Williams, a Police Judge, at the Supreme Court yesterday, Mr. Sidney Ng Quin instituted legal proceedings on behalf of Pong On Tong Firm for return of the mahjong set and the table top as well as the hire money for the set at \$120 per day as from Dec. 12.

After hearing both parties, His Lordship awarded judgment in favour of plaintiff. The defendant was ordered to return the set, or its cost \$130, the table top, and the hire money of \$30 (at 60 cents per day as from Dec. 11) plus cost.

A remand of three days, in Police custody, was granted by Mr. Blair Kerr when Kong Pan appeared before His Worship yesterday on the charge of possession of an automatic pistol, a revolver and seven rounds of ammunition at the Mong Kok Ferry wharf on Feb. 12.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES
Peninsula Hotel arrivals: S. G. Muelem, J. Berlage, D. A. Hezler, G. B. Ramchandani and G. M. Pilester.

Peninsula Hotel departures: Mrs. M. W. W. Mrs. J. J. J. Mrs. O. M. O. Mrs. L. L. L. Mrs. R. R. R. Mrs. S. S. S. Mrs. T. T. T. Mrs. U. U. U. Mrs. V. V. V. Mrs. W. W. W. Mrs. X. X. X. Mrs. Y. Y. Y. Mrs. Z. Z. Z.

Prices Up
Despite the improvement in the value of the Chinese dollar, prices continued at high levels induced by last Tuesday's spectacular descent and, in some instances, even increased.

Movie houses in Shanghai announced that present admission prices would be doubled from Feb. 16. They said the boost was necessitated by the higher expenses occasioned by the incessant hike in commodity prices and the mounting cost of living.

Chinese newspapers generally raised their prices from CN\$300 to CN\$500 a copy. Hikes in restaurants since the recent currency landslide showed many instances where prices more than doubled. In one typical foreign style restaurant increases were:

Cup of coffee from CN\$1,500 to CN\$3,500; a plate of soup from CN\$5,000 to CN\$10,000; hamburger steak from CN\$4,000 to CN\$10,000; plain lunch from 12,000 to \$19,000; cheese sandwich from \$2,000 to \$5,000; slice apple pie from \$1,100 to \$4,000.

GENDARME CHIEF WAS "MISUNDERSTOOD" MAN

Officer Sentenced For Bigamy

London, Feb. 14. Although letters were read seeking leniency for him from the two women involved, a London company director and former R.A.F. officer was, at Cambridge Assizes, sentenced to nine months' imprisonment for bigamy.

He is Wilson Boyd Rowat, aged 32, of Natal-road, Streatham, S.W. He pleaded guilty to bigamy, marrying Miss Edith Eleanor McLeay, at St. Neots, Hunts, on Sept. 4.

His legal wife wrote that she had refused to give evidence against him, and sent him good wishes. The woman he had bigamously married, in a letter from nursing home, revealed she had given birth to twins only a week before the trial. She pleaded not to be separated from him.

Mr. A. G. de Montmorency prosecuting, said Rowat was married on Oct. 7, 1936, and there were a child. On his return to England after overseas service with the R.A.F. he went through a form of marriage with Miss McLeay.

Mr. Paul Tyrie, defending, submitted that no real harm had been done, to either of the women.

Rowat's marriage had been unhappy from the start, and he had left him to live with another woman. She started divorce proceedings against him in 1944, about a month before the bigamy wedding ceremony.

Nevertheless, she wished him well, said Mr. Tyrie, who read a letter she had sent to her husband from an address in Tunbridge Wells, Kent. This stated: "I have refused to give evidence against you. I had to sign a statement for the police, but I only put the truth regarding our marriage, the time we lived together, etc. There is no doubt now that we must sort the thing out so that you can get straight."

"Good wishes to you and a sincere hope that all will go well with you in your coming ordeal," Miss McLeay's relationship with Rowat was extremely happy, went on Mr. Tyrie, and she would undoubtedly have been present in court had she not given birth to twins a few days before.

"Cannot Bear Separation"

She also had sent a letter, which stated: "I have been very happy with Mr. Rowat, who has always treated me with great kindness, and I want only to be allowed to continue to live with him and to marry him if it should become possible later on. I cannot bear the thought of being separated from him and hope the judge will not separate us and leave me with the responsibility of my three babies."

Passing sentence, Mr. Justice Hallett said he was of opinion it was not one of the worst cases of bigamy. Having got the woman into trouble Rowat went through a ceremony of marriage to satisfy her. This was constantly happening today.

"JANE"



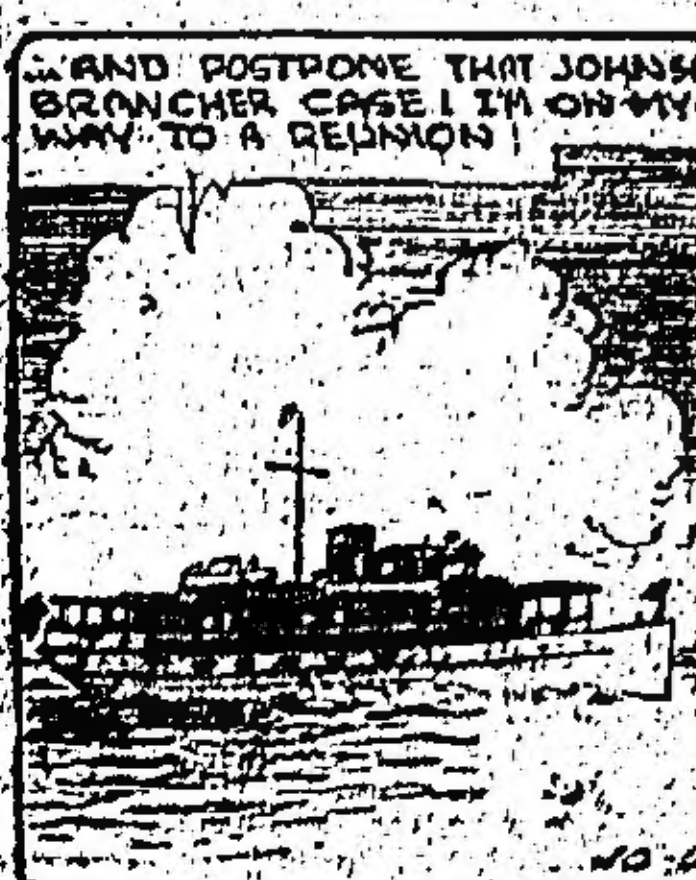
BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES



On Their Way



By EDGAR MARTIN



Oldster Rival Of Young Soldier

Manchester, Feb. 14. "Love at first sight" over a bun and a cup of tea in a NAAFI canteen at a Manchester station was described at Manchester magistrates' court when a seventy-five-year-old man and a twenty-seven-year-old soldier both declared their love for a woman of twenty-seven.

The woman, Nellie Elizabeth Marsland, of Tosteth-street, Higher Openshaw, Manchester, accused of bigamously marrying the soldier on Christmas Eve, was sent for trial at the next Assizes, and allowed bail.

Leaving the court with both men, the woman finally went off with the soldier. It was his last day of leave before returning to his unit in Northumberland.

Mrs. Marsland, a brunette, in an alleged statement to the police, said she had married her husband in October, 1939. She had continued to live with him right up to Christmas Eve, when she "married" the soldier.

Her husband was seventy-five on his last birthday. She had never been really happy from the time they were first married, but Mr. Marsland had always tried to be kind to her.

She met the soldier, Harry Denny Eley, at the NAAFI canteen where she was employed as a waitress.

He had come in for a cup of tea and a bun, and it was "a case of love at first sight."

Harry took her part of the way home for a few nights, and she told him she was a single woman.

"I knew it was wrong, but I was so fond of him I couldn't help telling lies," she said.

Both men said in evidence they wanted to stay with the woman.

Eley said he still loved her very much and wanted to marry her properly.

Woman Influenced By Novel

London, Feb. 14.

A woman who, it was pleaded, had been influenced by reading a novelette, was bound over at Peterborough Quarter Sessions after pleading guilty to blackmail.

She is Gwendoline Mary Cutt, aged 27, of Wygata-road, Spalding, Lincs, mother of three children. The chairman, Judge W. Lawson Campbell, told her that the Court took a lenient course "out of consideration for her husband, an R.A.F. sergeant shortly to be released after nine years' service."

The judge said that black-

Employee Sues For Back Wages

Before Mr. Justice T. J. Gould at the Supreme Court yesterday, Lo Chiu, printer, of No. 49, Connaught Road, Central, instituted legal proceedings against his former employer, Chan Shiu-man, manager and partner of the Kinson Printing Press, No. 7, Si Hong Lane, for back wages and allowances amounting to \$399.50, plus cost of the action. Neither party was legally represented.

Lo claimed payment from Chan of one month's wages, \$140, in lieu of notice; of seven days' wages, \$50, allegedly due him; of one month's boarding allowance, \$40; and of overtime pay for 38 Sundays, \$188. The total was \$399.50. Plaintiff stated that on Jan. 7, Chan dismissed him without reason and notice, after he had worked for the printing press for almost a year.

Although there was no written agreement, Lo added, his employment by Chan was a regular one at \$140 per month, plus lodging and boarding. In October, last year, Chan wanted to reduce his wages to \$120, but the plaintiff did not agree.

Lo alleged that according to the firm's regulations, he was allowed Sundays off and would be paid for overtime work on three Sundays every month if he worked on Sundays. The regular work was eight hours a day on week days. Lo said that when he was dismissed on Jan. 7, Chan still owed him seven days' wages.

Wong Choi, paper cutter of Chan's printing press, said that the shop's regulations were that foks were not to work on Sundays.

Circular

Sometime last year when foks demanded overtime pay on Sundays from the shops, witness added, Chan asked the foks to sign a circular. In the circular, there was an condition under which foks' employment would terminate if they asked for overtime pay.

Because of this condition, witness said, none of the foks signed the circular.

Witness said that none of the foks worked on Jan. 5 Sunday, two days before plaintiff's dismissal.

In the witness box, Chan alleged that he dismissed the plaintiff because he did not work on Sunday, Jan. 5, without his permission. Chan denied that he had ever agreed to pay overtime pay to the foks and that it was the shop's regulation to allow foks free Sundays.

Chan said he dismissed the plaintiff after the stoppage of work on Sunday, Jan. 5, because he thought Lo was the instigator.

The case was adjourned to this morning.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT NOTICE

KING'S COLLEGE

Old Boys and former members of the Staff are invited to send me information which would assist me in compiling records of the academic and athletic history of King's College from 1928 to 1947. The following would be greatly valued:—

1. Copies of the School Prospectus, magazines, athletic programmes, School Concert programmes, reports of Speech Days.
2. Lists of scholarship and prize winners with appropriate years.
3. War records, December 1941—August 1945.

I shall be very happy to meet any Old Boy or former colleague at the Education Office, Windsor House, 3rd floor.

J. J. FERGUSON, Principal.

Hong Kong, 12th Feb., 1947.

NOTICE

I have been requested by all Shipping Lines operating in the Far East Freight Conference to warn Consignees that notice to the Shipping Companies concerned in respect of irregularities such as pilferage and loss is not reported in many cases until days and even weeks have elapsed.

"It is imperative that immediate notice be given in respect of any such irregularities in order that investigations can be made with the least possible delay." It is pointed out further that failure to report immediately might affect claims against Steamship Companies.

J. D. ALEXANDER, Local Chairman, Far Eastern Freight Conference.

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PUBLIC AUCTION

The Undersigned have received instructions from the Custodian of Property to sell by Public Auction on

Tuesday the 18th February 1947 commencing at 10.00 a.m.

at their Sales Rooms, Pedder Building, Basement.

201 LOTS OF MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES, comprising:—

STORED AT GARDEN ROAD GARAGE, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

Petrol Fuel Pumps and Parts, Gasoline Strainers, Water Temperature Motors, Ignition and Light Switches, Fuse Boxes, Pistons, Piston Pins and Rings, Speedometer Heads, Etc.

STORED AT CUSTODIAN K.L. GODOWN, MA TAU WEI ROAD, KOWLOON.

Tinplate, Tarpaulin, Tin Strips, Gunny Cloth and Bags, Car Wheels and Axles, Austin Saloon, Morris Saloon, M.G. Tourer, Austin 7, Tourer, Dodge Lorry, Bedford Van, Chevrolet Lorry, Scammell Van, Etc.

STORED AT HONGKONG & KOWLOON WHARF & GODOWN CO., LTD'S Nos. 30/31 GODOWNS, TSIMSHATSUI, KOWLOON.

Tinplate, Cotton Covered Cable, Rubber Covered Cable, Tar Covered Cable, Steel Wire, White Foreign Paper, Hurricane Lanterns, Hessian Cloth, Artificial Silk, Canvas Belting, Cotton Gloves, Flash-light Bulbs, Garlock Packing, Chinese Tobacco, Tobacco Leaves, Straw Braid, Radio Transmitting Tubes, Grease, Ink, Zinc Oxide, Hand Turtles, High Tension 60 K.V. Transformer, Etc.

STORED AT SUN FUN GODOWN, WEST POINT.

Gunny Cloth, Foreign Paper, Electric Bulbs, Straw Hats.

STORED AT KWONG HIP LUNG SHIPYARD, CHEUNG SHA WAN.

Scotch Boilers, Motor Boat, Diesel Engine, Lubricating Oil.

STORED AT IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES, GODOWN, EAST POINT, HONG KONG.

Life Boats, Boiler.

STORED AT TUNG TAI ENGINEERING WORKS, NORTH POINT, HONG KONG.

Water Pump, Strainer Boxes, Large "Asquith" Drill, Kerosene Marine Engines, Welding Set, Shipway Winch.

STORED AT PENINSULA HOTEL BASEMENT, KOWLOON.

Gardner & Sons' Diesel Engine and Gleisstar Generator with Field Rheostat and 4 Motors, D.W. Onan & Sons' Petrol Engines coupled to A.C. Generators, Single Phase, Combined Switch Panel, Fuses and Switches.

The above-mentioned articles will be open for inspection at their respective godowns on 15th February, 1947, between 10.00 a.m. and noon, and on 17th February, 1947, between 10.00 a.m. and noon, and between 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. Inspection Permits will be issued by the Undersigned at their Auction Rooms.

The Auction is subject to the Conditions of Sale published in the Hong Kong (British Military Administration) Gazette Volume 2, No. 12, of 9th March, 1946.

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REWARD

A reward of \$200.00 will be paid for the recovery and return in good condition to the Director of Public Works of any bound sets of plans of Kowloon and New Kowloon containing some 14 to 16 sheets of drawing to a scale of 200 feet to one inch and showing thereon approved levels at street intersections.

Service Auction Rooms

Auctioneers, Surveyors, etc. Basement, French Bank Bldg. A.E.B. de Sousa, Auctioneer. Telephone 31837.

HARBOUR DEPARTMENT

It is hereby notified that sealed tenders, in triplicate, for the purchase of the following unserviceable craft will be received at the office of the Chairman of the Tender Board, Public Works Department, until Noon on Friday, 7th March, 1947. The tender should be clearly marked "Tender for the purchase of unserviceable craft."

The craft are to be sold as they lie and may be seen on application to the Superintendent Engineer, Government Shipway, Yau-mat.

(a) H.D.8 — Wooden Motor Launch without engine.

Length 41' 6"
Breadth 9' 0"
Depth 4' 6"

(b) No. 2 Police Launch.

Length 100' 0"
Breadth 20' 6"
Depth 8' 6"

(c) No. 1 Firefloat.

Length 100' 0"
Breadth 25' 0"
Depth 10' 6"

Details of the specifications and present condition are available on application to the Superintending Engineer, Government Shipway, Yau-mat.

Tenders must deposit at the Prince's Building, The Treasury, the sum of \$500 (Five Hundred Dollars) for each tender submitted. This sum will be forfeited to the Hong Kong Government if the successful tenderer fails to complete the transaction. The deposit will be returned to unsuccessful tenderers.

The successful tenderer will be required to pay the purchase money to the Treasury within 48 hours of being advised of the acceptance of their tender. Government does not bind itself to accept the highest or any tender.

J. JOLLY, Harbour Master. Hongkong, 13th Feb., 1947.

Chinese Optical Co.

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HOUSING HARDSHIP

Mr. Justice Williams' decision in the Apliu Street tenancy appeal may be good law, but if it is the law, then the law should be changed. Nothing, surely, strikes so sharply across the general principles of English justice than a direction that what is fair and reasonable is of no consequence as long as legal conditions attached to a tenant's "I want" are fulfilled. In this particular case, the owner of the premises sought eviction of the tenant on the ground that they were required for the accommodation of a son or daughter over 18. The Tenancy Tribunal found that refusal of the application would impose no hardship on the applicant, with the obvious implication of the very reverse effect upon the tenant and his sub-tenants. Mr. Justice Williams ruled that the Tribunal was wrong in taking relative hardship into consideration, and that the owner's mere demand for vacant possession, as long as the evidence satisfied the conditions of Article 5, para 1 (A) (1) of the Landlord and Tenant Proclamation, was imperative, leaving the Tribunal with no option but to make the order for eviction. "However unreasonable it may be," if the tenant is dangerously ill and the removal might cause death, the Tribunal must grant the eviction order. To achieve this somewhat astonishing finding, Mr. Justice Williams insists that the operative word in the Proclamation which decrees that the Tribunal "may" make the order must be interpreted as "shall." It matters not, of course, whether the worthy Puisse Judge is right or wrong. There is an offence against common logic and good sense. Mr. Justice Williams did, in fact, go so far out of his way to emphasise the extremes to which literal interpretation of the Proclamation could be carried that his primary purpose may well have been to point the urgent need for remedy. The history of the Landlord and Tenant Proclamation, and of the subsequent amendment which gave the Tenancy Tribunal power to evict a tenant in favour of a landlord claiming possession for himself or members of his family, suggest perhaps that the Appeal Court adhered too closely to the letter and overlooked the spirit of the law. The amendment was specifically recommended, and approved, on the ground that the rigidity of the original Proclamation imposed undue hardship on landlords requiring their premises for their own use. It seems a natural corollary that the introduction of a hardship clause of this nature should entitle Tribunal of Court to examine the relative degrees of hardship as between landlord and tenant as a factor to be taken into consideration. Any other view would seem to ignore among other things the paramount purpose of the Proclamation as a whole, which is the protection of the interests of the lawful tenant, in defiance of the common law, unless the landlord can show good cause for the overriding of this main principle. The finding of Mr. Justice Williams rejects this interpretation and in a fashion that brooks of no argument, save perhaps recourse to a higher court. That being the case, it is to be hoped that the Law Officers engaged in drafting the Ordinance which is to replace the Landlord and Tenant Proclamation shortly, will take the opportunity of employing phraseology to cover an Apliu Street situation in a manner denying possibility of doubt or misunderstanding.

NAZI BOSS IN U.S. HOSPITAL

Frankfurt, Feb. 13. It was announced officially tonight that Kurt Schmidt, 50, ex-Sturmabfuhrer of the Leader's School for German security police arrested after he was found working for the Americans in the 317th Station Hospital in Wiesbaden. Schmidt, one-time police colonel in the German Army, was also holding the job of Custodian of Property in the Wiesbaden German Demarcation Tribunal.

"The Light Went Out While I Was Shaving"

By PHILIP AULT

London, Feb. 13. The light went out while I was shaving this morning. Shaving—well you can do that by feel.

But fellow-correspondent Fahs' wife now—she has a two-month-old baby and nothing but electric heating. The baby's warmed milk is in the thermostat. Bruce Mann has a little coal now. He did not have any last week. The horses had flu, the man said.

These weren't Britain's little people. These were American journalists looked upon by the British as privileged because they live in "luxury" flats—some even have central heating—and paid anything from U.S.\$150 a month up for them.

Sometimes it is funny—sometimes it is grim. But always it is a crisis and never is it comfortable.

Mum looks like a miner crawling into a coal bin to scrape the floor for enough to get the first place going. His missus bakes wet logs in a gas oven and tries to mould coal dust into burnable bricks.

Mrs. Higginbotham buttoned

up her dressing gown trying to get warm before a gas fire whose pressure is so low there is only a flame—no heat.

S.O.S.

Cliff Day went looking for candles in six shops. He did not find any and today Mrs. Day is sending SOS messages to relatives for some to light their flat during the five hours of the day when there is no juice.

Joe Dowson was late this morning. He had been to seven cigarette shops seeking butts without which no sports writer can work.

Other United Press correspondents Barber, Thrapp and Buckingham were lucky. They share a steam-heated luxury flat and had floods of hot water. They invited their friends to use their bathtub at will. That was last week. Today they showed up at work ill-shaven and shivering from cold. There was no coal for their 100-ft. block.

Robert Mussel was the luckiest of all. He went home to the United States.

Teletype operator Credon still could not get his house above 50 degrees in the front room. Operator Winch was in trouble with the school authorities. They said they would take action if his youngster did not get to school on time. But Mrs. Winch said it took her three quarters of an hour to heat the water for the child's morning porridge.

Geoff Lamb—he lives down the street from Higginbotham—sent home the girls in his plastic pants. They couldn't use their hands for the cold.

Railways Helpful

A guard at the suburban station gave up.

"The next train," he said, "It's just the next one that comes along. Don't know where it's going."

Who's Who Originator Dead

Brighton, Feb. 13. The man who first compiled "Who's Who" in its present form, Dr. Douglas Sladen, a writer, biographer, poet, traveller and sportsman, died at home last night, a week after his 91st birthday.

The idea for a modern "Who's Who" came to him at the end of the last century when travelling in the United States, and seeing personal paragraphs about people in the press.

In 1897, "Who's Who" was merely a Court list, but when Sladen became editor, he introduced compact little biographies with such intimate details as "favourite recreation."

—Reuter.

Clashes In Punjab

Lahore, Feb. 13. Spears, hatchets, staves and tear gas were among the weapons used today in clashes in Punjab between the police and Moslem League members agitating against the Punjab Government Public Safety Ordinance forbidding processions.

At Sarghoda, 160 miles north-west of Lahore, horsemen armed with spears and hatchets, who were leading a Moslem procession which tried to break a police cordon, were scattered by police using staves.

Tear gas was used to disperse a crowd in front of the police station at Amritsar, several persons being injured and two arrested.

In Lahore itself 80 Moslem League procession leaders were arrested.—Reuter.

Writing The Peace

Writing the peace terms for Germany promises to be a tough job for the delegates who will gather in Moscow next month, but it could be tougher.

Behind various plans and ideas already being put forward is the motive which is fairly common to powers which will do most of the treaty

By JAMES D. WHITE

writing. This is determination not to repeat the same mistakes which allowed Germany to rise again after the first world war and bring on the second.

Getting together on how to prevent Germany from ever again becoming another military threat is a task that will have to be carried through a maze of diversions. First, no big power can afford to ignore so obviously the wishes of the small powers whose votes are important in United Nations councils on other issues still ahead. This means at least a preliminary period of many ideas and proposals, while the big powers listen to small power pleas.

Another diversion is mutual suspicion by most powers that any inclination to go easy on Germany means that some one is trying to save her to be used against someone else later on. Russia suspects this of the west and the west returns the compliment.

To assume both are right is

to assume no one learned anything much from the second world war and how it came about. You can assume that if you care to, but if otherwise inclined, you may be interested in noting that all of Europe is badly in need of things Germany normally produces in peacetime—hardware, durable goods, precision machinery.

It happens that Russia which lost most of an inadequate industrial setup during the war needs this stuff as badly or worse than anyone else.

Observers of the Russian scene note this: Soviet Russians never had the gadgets and the clothes and the good living they wanted, partly because their whole effort was diverted into building a production machine which worked itself ragged for the war. The Russians still want these things. Now their soldiers are going home with knowledge gained abroad of what they have been missing.

Potential Russian demand for consumer goods is so great, in the opinion of some observers, that it may force revision of the latest Soviet five-year plan for industrial expansion toward larger and quicker volume of consumer goods to satisfy this demand.

So it would seem that basically no great power has more interest than Russia in seeing Germany production get started again. For Germany to resume this production she must know where she is going to stand and so must others.

ing or when it'll be here. May be a half hour—maybe sooner. The village tobacconist thought he'd last out the week but in London shop after shop said "Cigarettes for regulars only—these folk still were eating. There was food—yet—but cooking was the problem. If gas is strong enough your wife is lucky. Otherwise she manages her cooking to skirt the five hours there isn't any current. Many reverted to the habits of their ancestors and did morning toast, speared on a fork over a gas fire or in the fireplace.

How many thousands dead? Nobody has died except some like the six R.A.F. men who crashed their plane trying to get food to a snowbound village. Few were likely to die as a direct result of the cold.

But this was not broken, beaten Germany. This was London. This was Britain—one of the countries that won the war—the one that can take it.—United Press.

RANGOON BANK STRIKE

Rangoon, Feb. 13. Strikers carrying Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League flags today picketed Rangoon banks at about 2,000 bank clerks joined strike-bound labourers and commercial firms' employees, estimated at 40,000. Early this afternoon all banks in the city shut their doors, displaying a notice that the day had been declared a bank holiday.

The Burma Police Union is holding a conference tomorrow to decide its policy towards the strike.—Reuter.

Mr. Silence Makes Allowances

London's "little people," whose bulldozing tenacity rode out the Nazi blitz, believe they are "getting it in the neck" now worse than during the war.

They disagreed, however, about where the blame lies and what the remedy is according to a United Press survey today.

Charles Silence, a 58-year-old watchman, propped his feet against a lukewarm steam radiator in his office in a London building and expounded two main theories.

The first—the Government should have sacrificed its all-out export drive for three months last summer to enable sufficient bunkering at power stations to carry through the winter.

The second—the Fuel Minister, Mr. Emanuel Shinwell, lacked foresight.

"I think we've overdone the export business," Silence said. "We used up too much coal to turn out articles for the

almighty dollar and the country's suffering for it now."

Silence, his wife and two grown daughters were luckier than most Britons for the graying watchman—who clearly remembers the winter of 1935 as the coldest he has seen—filled his collar and store noose with coal during the summer.

He said he practised what the Government preached—but failed to practise itself. Consequently, he manages to maintain a coal fire in one room.

In all, Silence believes that he and 40,000,000 other Britons are taking it in the neck now far worse than they did during the war.

He griped because he could not get a bit of rum when he wanted it and because only this morning he had to call at six tobacconists before he could buy cigarettes.

"But I am like a lot," he explained. "We all get peevish when shortages cut out the things we want. I blame Shinwell for not seeing to it that fuel supplies were more than ample even though he had every indication this was going to be a tough winter. However, if things righted themselves tomorrow, I would feel he was okay for the job."

Jack Gorman, 41-year-old London doctor, took a philosophical view and heaped his scorn on "this ungodly winter." He did not feel, even though he had not been able to get any coal for two months, that Shinwell or the Government was to blame.

His wife, he said, simply made allowances, as all Britons have become accustomed to doing in the past seven years. "For instance, it used to take 20 minutes to boil potatoes on their gas ring and now it requires 30 minutes because of the reduced pressure. The potatoes simply go on the stove 10 minutes earlier. They also burn wood garnered from an abandoned American Army camp."

Other typical cases—those people who do not live in steam-heated houses and whose wages often do not exceed the allowance an American serviceman gets under the GI education plan agreed that misery seemed to be their lot. This year. Some blame the nationalisation of railways for the coal crisis, putting the finger on stockholders who still maintained executive positions. Some thought inducements should be offered to make mining more attractive. But all whether they traced their grievances to the weather, or to the Government, agreed unanimously that this island had yet to face a more discouraging future.—United Press.

CARNIVAL

By Dick Turner



"And now to tidy up a bit, if you don't mind!"

BARCLAY ON BRIDGE

By Shepard Barclay

"The Authority on Authorities"

UNSAFE SUITS UNWISE

"NOBODY WILL ever place a higher value on you than you put on yourself" was the advice given by an older business man to a younger one who had asked what salary he should request on a job. He was seeking. It is the same with a bridge player. The prospective declarer, who fears that he will make, even though the minor is patently the correct suit, and prefers to essay game in four, odd of a major when it is clearly an unsound trump suit, deserves whatever misfortune befalls him.

S 10 7 4
H A 8 6
C Q J 8
D K 9 8 5

S 8 2
H Q 5
D A 6 3
C A K Q J

S A K 9 6
H K J 10 9
D K 10 9 7 5
C None

(Dealer: South North-South vulnerable.)
What would you consider the soundest bidding of this deal?

South West North East
1D 2C Pass
2C 3NT Pass
4S

And, believe it or not, North passed that, instead of showing his preference for diamonds, by going to 5-Diamonds. His excuse, after the hand was over, was that he thought 10 tricks might be easier to make in spades than 11 tricks in diamonds, since he had three cards to an honour in the spades. But what happened to his partner was a caution.

West led the club K, which the spade 6 ruffed. A diamond drove out the A, and the club Q forced South's second trump. Now South ruffed the spade A and K and the diamond Q, then laid down the spade Q in the hope that trumps were evenly divided. They were not. The probable division of four and two existed. So East still had a trump left. The diamond I drove it out, but East thereupon led a third club round. West could take three more tricks in that suit. That made a total of five tricks for the defence and set the contract two.

At 5-Diamonds, with a lead of the club K, South would have been in clover. In fact, his contract would have been an extra trick for an unbid small slam if he guessed West for the heart Q. The only trick the defence would have been sure to score was with the diamond A.

Having bid diamonds first, then shown power with his ace-bid of clubs, North should have counted the diamonds as at least five and the spades as only four.

Tomorrow's Problem

S 6 3
H 4
D J 6 2
C A K 10 9 6 4 3

S J 10 7 4
H 10 6 3 2
D 9 8 3
C 8 5

(Dealer: East East-West vulnerable.)
What would you consider the soundest bidding of this deal?

H.K.'s Ex-Gunners Getting Together

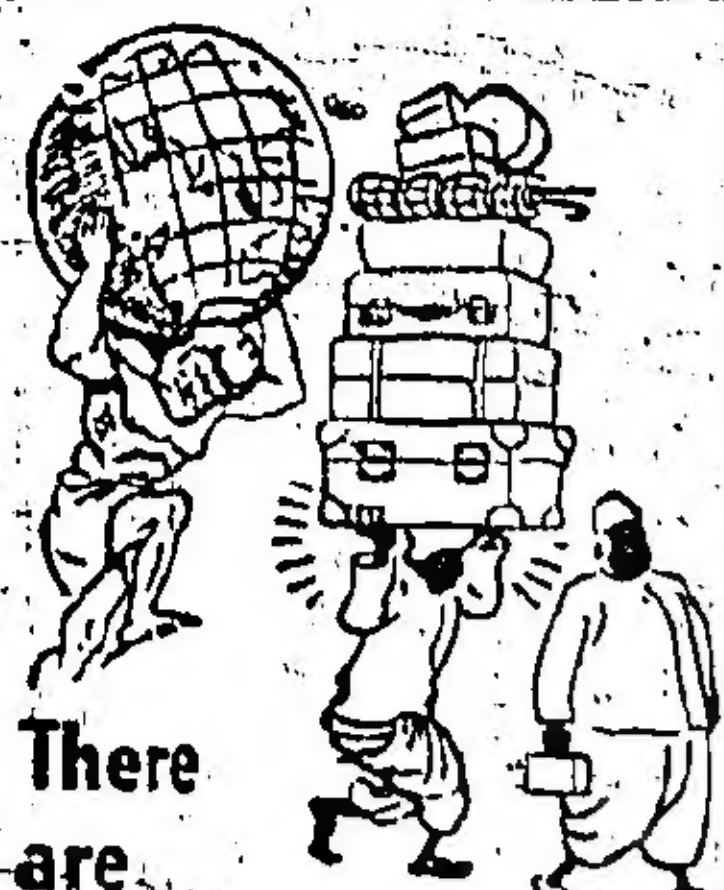
There is a stirring amongst ex-gunners in Hong Kong to form an association. In none of the services is there a greater sense of fraternity than among those who have served in the Royal Regiment of Artillery. Those who have once been in the service of the gun retain a transcendent feeling of attachment, loyalty and affection for their regiment which neither time nor dispersal can abate and which amidst the pre-occupation of peace impedes an urge to gather together and keep the flame burning. There is something, in very close and intimate association of the little family of the battery which fosters a feeling of common service and devotion to the same craft.

What other regiment has its own Patron Saint? From the time of the introduction of the cannon into warfare in the fifteenth century Saint Barbara has been the Patron Saint of Artillery in all countries. The legend of St. Barbara was introduced by the Crusaders together with that of St. George the Patron Saint of England and Saint Catherine of the Wheel who lived about the same time. According to the legend Saint Barbara, who had renounced Christianity was beheaded by her own father under a

Roman Pro-Consul. Martians. Immediately upon the execution there came on a most fearful tempest with thunder, lightning and fire fell upon the cruel father and consumed him utterly; another flash reduced Martians to a smoking ash heap. Hence the martyr is held to be the patroness of thunder and lightning, of artillery and of arsenal.

There must be a considerable number of former gunners in the Colony. Both those who are fresh from the mechanised batteries of the recent war and those whose traditions of service have been kept undimmed from the days of the horse batteries of previous wars including, it is hoped, some still stalwart veterans of the Boer War.

The motto of the Regiment is "Ubique quo fas et gloria decunt"—"whenever right and glory lead." The same ubiquitous sense of association and duty might be maintained as in peace as in war, and all, both officers and men, who have at any time served but are not now serving in the Royal Regiment of Artillery are being cordially invited to assemble at the Volunteer Headquarters on Tuesday February 25th at 5.45 p.m. to talk over the possibilities of keeping alive in Hong Kong the freemasonry of the guns.



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ATTLEE REPORTS TO COMMONS Cause For Anxiety In Gas Industry Nine Days' Coal In Hand

British M.P. Missing
Athens, Feb. 12.
Nothing has been heard of the Labour M.P. Mr. T. G. Thomas, since he entered guerrilla-held territory in Thessaly four days ago.

A British Embassy spokesman here tonight said he did not know Thomas' whereabouts. Mr. Thomas, who came to Greece last month primarily to give evidence for the defence in the trial of members of a Left Wing organisation, was advised a week ago by the British Military Mission that they could not guarantee his safety if he tried to contact the guerrillas. Thomas, who is a Welshman from Rhondda, is 38. Last July he headed the British Youth Delegation to Warsaw to attend the Polish Youth conference. Reuter.

SIR W. BROWN DEAD
London, Feb. 13.
Sir William Brown, KCB, KCMG, CBE, Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Air, died in Tuesday at his home at Monkseaton, Northumberland, it was learned today. He was 53. Sir William had been at the Air Ministry since October, 1945, and previously was Secretary to the Ministry of Home Security. He went to Washington on a special mission in 1944. -United Press.

London, Feb. 13.
The Prime Minister, Mr. Clement Attlee, told the House of Commons today that Britain's supply of fuel for power had improved slightly, but warned that there was cause for anxiety now in the gas industry. The Prime Minister, making an up-to-the-minute report on the fuel crisis that had stopped all but the most essential of the nation's industries, said 78,000 tons of coal were saved between Monday and Wednesday as a result of the drastic current cuts.

He said the general power stocks of coal at the nation's generating plants were now sufficient for about nine days normal operations. In London, however, there was only about a week's stock at six main power stations. At the worst, the coal stocks earlier had dropped to four days' supply. The situation remains critical. Mr. Attlee said. "The coal stocks of gas undertakings give cause for anxiety, particularly in London where stocks in general amount to about nine and a half days' consumption - considerably lower in some cases." Mr. Attlee announced that 12 ships carrying 24,000 tons of coal had reached London in the past 24 hours and between noon on Tuesday and noon today 51 ships in all had left northeast ports, carrying 400,000 tons for London. Thirty more ships carrying 25,500 tons left northeastern ports for other destinations in that same period, Mr. Attlee said. Six ships were tied up, but more than 31 others were expected to move today.

More Coal Moved
The Premier reported that the railways of Britain moved more coal as a result of the passenger service cuts announced last night. And he sombrely read to the House the weather forecast of continued cold weather - but no rain and no fog. "This means," he said, "that although the loading of wagons and ships still is slow and difficult, we can keep seaborne coal moving." He advised the Commons that the "dangerous" spots are the north-east and Midlands areas. His warning followed an earlier announcement by the British Gas Council that its 1,100 gas-producing members had been put in readiness to impose an emergency plan to cut off supplies to all but essential industries. Home consumption would not be affected under the plan. "Improvement?" It also followed a statement from the Fuel and Power Minister, Mr. Emanuel Shinwell, reporting "for the first time a small improvement in the general position."

The official drop in coal stocks for the moment has been arrested, but the position remains precarious until the stocks are brought up to the safety level. Mr. Shinwell's statement, which was released at a press conference, said. He also said the drop in power consumption, at the nine a.m. cut-off this morning was "slightly less than yesterday's." -United Press.

How Britain Is Affected
London, Feb. 14.
Here is how Britain's fuel crisis cuts across the lives, home and activities in the areas affected by the great switch-off. Big business virtually all large manufacturing plants are closed. Drastic reductions are noticeable in railway transport facilities, with only a week's coal supply left. Industrialists incur heavy waste bills to meet payments under lien contracts. Underwriters face losses through curtailment of production for export. Small manufacturers all non-essential factories closed. Fuel "pirates" seeking to operate during the night are watched by Government inspectors. Sub-contractors resort to "home-work." Small factories and "family businesses," through their organisation, the National Union of Manufacturers, appeal to the Government to enable 4,000 firms to re-open. The workers - an estimated 6,000,000 are idle and unemployment is expected to reach 6,000,000 by the end of the week. Those not covered by the unemployment benefit contracts begin queuing for the dole. (Government unemployment insurance of 24 shillings weekly for a man, 16 shillings for his wife and correspondingly less for children.) The housewife - this rationed woman has her cooking schedule upset. If she has gas, that is threatened too. The Sunday "dinner" may never get fully cooked. Many homes, already short of coal for heating, now have their electric heaters turned off five hours a day. And with lights out during the dark days there is little comfort left in the home. The shopkeeper - he is working

BOOGIE-WOOGIE OUT

London, Feb. 13.
The "Daily Telegraph" reports from Belgrade that the "boogie-woogie," Congo, Big Apple and trucking had been banned in Zagreb. The official gazette in Zagreb said that engaging in or teaching these American dances was punishable by a fine of US \$30 or 45 days' imprisonment. -United Press.

Accused Protest Innocence

London, Feb. 13.
Protesting their innocence Thomas John Ley, a 66-year-old Company director and former New South Wales Minister of Justice, and Lawrence John Smith, (38) a London joiner, were at a West London police court today committed for trial charged with the murder of John MacBain Mudge, a 35-year-old Reigate Hotel barman whose body was found in a Surrey chalk-pit last November.

Both pleaded not guilty and reserved their defence after the defence submission that no case had been established against Ley had been rejected by the court. Doctor Eric Gardner, the pathologist who examined Mudge's body in the trench in the chalk-pit, identified pieces of rope which were found on the body. Some had been used for trussing, he said, and one piece, which was in a noose round the neck, had caused death by asphyxia. -Reuter.

Bernhard Won't Be Scooped

The Hague, Feb. 13.
Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands has decided on elaborate arrangements to scoop the world with pictures of the new Royal baby, expected to be born at Soestdijk Palace any day.

He is anxious to avoid what happened at the time of the birth of Princess Beatrix, his first child, when some British newspapers, overbidding the Dutch press, were able to publish photographs first. The Prince will take the photographs himself. The negatives will then be taken under heavy escort to the Court Photographer. A detective will guard the dark room while they are being developed. Prints will then be taken by the police to Amsterdam where they will be issued to the foreign press under a 24-hour embargo. This will mean that no pictures will appear until 36 hours after the birth. -Reuter.

Richard Arrives In Britain

London, Feb. 13.
A 13-year-old boy from Shanghai, Richard Jerome Spinks, arrived from Hong Kong at Poole Harbour by BOAC flying boat today. During the past 31 days, he has been thrown into the sea from a wrecked Far Eastern Airlines aircraft near Luzon; spent 17 hours in the water; been rescued and taken to Manila by an American transport; then taken to Shanghai by a warship and finally a week ago caught the BOAC flying boat which has brought him to England. He is the son of a Shanghai Gas Company official and has come to England to complete his education at a preparatory school before going to college. -Reuter.

CZECH DAKOTA CRASH

Prague, Feb. 13.
The crew of three were killed when a Czech Air Lines Dakota crashed near Klavno today shortly after taking off from Ruzynov airfield near Prague. The plane caught fire on crashing. It had not yet been put on the regular service. An inquiry into the cause of the disaster has been ordered. -Reuter.

Empire Consulted On Treaty Talks

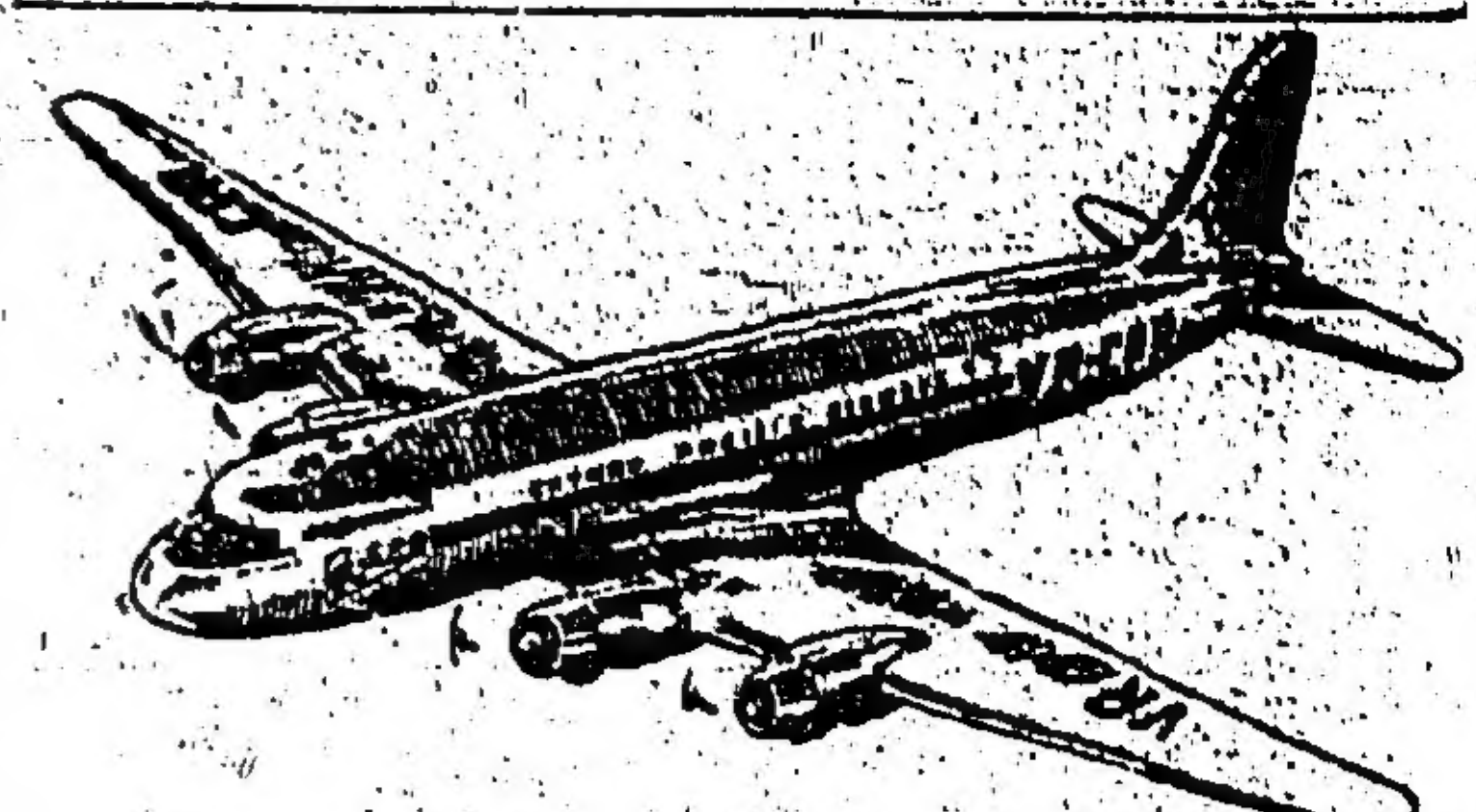
London, Feb. 13.
The Government was in close and constant contact with the Dominions and took full account of such views as they had expressed before the recent discussions in the Council of Foreign Ministers, the Prime Minister told the House of Commons today.

Mr. Attlee, who was replying to a question, added: "Similarly, it has been the practice in the case of India, and will henceforth also be in the case of Burma, for His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to keep the Government of those countries informed on all matters of foreign policy in which they are likely to be interested. "The Colonial Governments concerned have also been kept informed of the general line of British policy in these and other matters."

The United Kingdom cannot and would not wish to interfere with the right and responsibility of the individual Dominion Government to present their own views at any time to foreign Governments, to the Council of Foreign Ministers, or to the Council of Deputies. Sir Ralph Glyn (Conservative) had asked whether, in preliminary consideration of the terms of the peace treaties to Germany and Austria, steps were taken through the Dominions, India and Colonial Offices to ensure that the views of the Dominion and Colonial Governments were taken into full account before His Majesty's Government put forward its views to the Allied Foreign Ministers conferences, so that the Foreign Office could present the considered opinion not only of the United Kingdom but of the whole British Commonwealth, and thus avoid separate Dominion policies being submitted to the United Nations Council? -Reuter.

Gromyko Unseals His Lips

Lake Success, Feb. 13.
The Soviet delegate, M. Andrei Gromyko, in a rare impromptu statement to newsmen, said after the Security Council meeting today: "We are going to do our best to assure the success of the new Commission." M. Gromyko implied that he no longer had objections to dividing "mass destruction" and "conventional" between two commissions. He said final action on the resolution was "good and helpful." The United States delegate, Mr. Warren Austin, was pleased that M. Gromyko did not try to use the veto to block the arms plan. He said: "One thing to remember is that, as M. Gromyko said yesterday, there are many things on which we agree." -United Press.



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HONG KONG, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1947.

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M.C.C.'s Poor Showing In Victoria Match

Melbourne, Feb. 14.

Denis Compton took honours in an otherwise disappointing display of batting by the MCC here today on the opening day of the four-day return match against Victoria when the tourists lost five wickets for 266 runs.

Compton was only seven runs short of his fifth successive first class century when he was dismissed by Keith Miller who held a hot return. Compton's 93 was made in two hours 38 minutes and included five fours.

The scoreboard at the end of today's play was:

M.C.C.

Washbrook, b Thide	22
Fishlock, b Hassett, b Freer	51
Gibb, c Johnson, b Miller	17
Compton, c and b Miller	93
Hardstaff, c Thide, b Freer	9
Ikin, not out	51
Yardley, not out	13
Extras	10

Total (for 5 wickets) 266

Fall of wickets: 1-47, 2-73, 3-111, 4-130, 5-226.—Reuter.

In the first match against Victoria early last November the M.C.C. won by 24 runs.

Chess

The Kowloon Chess Club entertained a team from the 2nd Battalion. The Buffs, at a match played at the Peninsula Hotel on Thursday night, winning eight boards and drawing on the ninth.

The Buffs were a game team but were up against an unusually strong set of opponents and would have done better were it not for the fact that they were opposed by two Senior players—four Intermediates and three Juniors.

The Buffs did score, however, in the fact that they were the first Service team in years to accept an invitation to a match and the Club hopes that further matches can be arranged against Thursday's opponents and other teams.

A return match against The Buffs is a near certainty and a more balanced set of opponents is assured.

The Kowloon Chess Club lined up with Col. H. M. Whitcombe, D. E. de Carvalho, S. Novikov, R. C. Gardner, E. Tausz, J. P. de Carvalho, J. Hamler, A. E. Gomes and R. C. Tavares who were opposed by Lt. Thomas (Captain of the team), Lt. Evans, Pte. Meschiermidt, Lt. Bishop, Sgt. Gard, Cpl. Pill, Sgt. Palmer, Cpl. Waterman and Cpl. Knowles.

A famous British scientist says the present atomic bomb are 600 times more powerful than those of Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

Science Shorts

Glass for aircraft capable of stopping a half inch cannon shell has been developed in England. It is made of seven layers of white plate glass and is 2 1/2 inches thick.

The Soviet Arctic Institute sent its icebreaker "Severnyy Polyus" to 74 degrees North latitude, a new record, in 1946. The site is north of Novaya Zemlya.

A new arthritis drug, based on the acid-contraction principle, cured a disease-crippled rheumatoid which had been declared to be shot. It went on to win three steepleships.

Prague, Feb. 13. Belgium, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States and Czechoslovakia are expected to participate in the world and European ice hockey championships, beginning here on Feb. 15. The championships will be played under the system whereby each team plays each other.—Reuter.

A 24,600 foot peak in the Pamirs has been named "Mt. Stalin".—United Press.

London, Feb. 13. A decision to defer consideration for 12 months of proposals for a fourth division of the English Football League was announced after a meeting in London today of the Third Division (South) clubs.

The Third League (North) clubs recently postponed a decision on their attitude to a fourth division.—Reuter.

Test Tactics And Don Bradman

Adelaide, Feb. 13.

Don Bradman, in a letter to the newspaper "Advertiser", says that certain people have written to newspapers regarding the tactics adopted in the fourth Test, suggesting that he explain the aspects.

"To do so naturally involves the tactics of our opponents which, in my opinion, would be most discourteous at this juncture. As a member of the Australian team I am forbidden during the season to make any public comment on the play and players in first-class matches. If this fact was widely known it would save a lot of argument and also explain why a lot of things written about the play and players go unanswered by the participants," Bradman writes.—Reuter.

Britain Wants Action In Staff Talks

Lake Success, N.Y. Feb. 13.

Britain this evening urged the United Nations Security Council to take action to stop the delay in the Military Staff Committee, which has been discussing the organising of the United Nations armed forces since it was set up a year ago.

Sir Alexander Cadogan urged that the Council should call on the committee to produce a report of its activities not later than April 30. France supported the proposal. The Soviet delegate, M. Gromyko, opposed the setting of any time limit.

NEW GEORGES CARPENTIER?

Paris, Feb. 13.

Following his fourth round knockout victory over the Scottish lightweight, Bert Glynn, two nights ago in a London ring, French boxing experts were seriously speculating today whether or not Marcel Cerdan, French and European middleweight champion, could emulate Georges Carpentier and flatten any one of Europe's best heavyweights.—Reuter.

"SAI ON" ENQUIRY OPENS

(Continued from Page 1)

of the "twain deck." Private cooking was not allowed.

The Chief Officer, the Chief Engineer and the Second Engineer were all certificated men. At the time of the fire all the crew were on board.

Heard No Alarm

The first intimation Capt. Wherry had of anything amiss was at 4.55 a.m. when his boy rushed into his cabin and called "Master, big fire on ship; you come quick." Previous to that he had heard no alarm, and as far as he knew no member of the crew nor any one of the passengers had seen the fire started. He rushed out and ordered the crew to take up the fire hoses, one of which he was in service. The fire extinguishers could not be used as they were too clumsy to handle. The centre of the fire was amidship and it was spreading rapidly.

By 5.10 a.m. Captain Wherry was on the wharf, the whole ship being aflame, and the heat was so intense that people on the wharf had to flee. The last of the passengers who had managed to get to the wharf were on the ship's side; further escape was impossible.

Asked if he was aware that people were trapped in the aft portion of the ship, Captain Wherry said that by the nature of the locality of the fire, possibility of escape was precluded.

Questioned by the Court on steps taken on board to prevent fire and to ensure fire fighting efficiency, Captain Wherry said two members of the complement staff made an inspection of the vessel nightly to see that everything was in order; and the crew were put through a rough fire drill once in every eight days. They were familiar with the position of the fire hose.

Water service on the wharf was for drinking water; he was not sure who was in control. On the night in question the key was missing.

Iron Grilles

Questioned on the advisability of storing cargo on the "twain deck" where passengers were also accommodated, Captain Wherry replied he saw no objection to this practice provided there was proper supervision.

He could give no reason for the fire, and he had no idea how it started or its cause. When he was on the wharf he saw the base of the flame was greenish with a bluish mingling, which would seem to indicate that some highly inflammable materials were burning. Tongues of fire were leaping to a height of 25 feet.

Captain Wherry was also questioned on the iron grilles of the two stairways between the twain deck space and the upper deck, which he said were never closed.

The next witness was Mr. G. L. Fenton, managing director of the Tung On S.S. Co., owners of the "Sai On".

Mr. Fenton said the ship was operated by the company and was insured for HK\$300,000, the policy expiring on March 17, 1947. Neither the company nor he personally had ever received any threatening letters.

asking for money, service or other considerations.

On the night in question 187 passage tickets had been sold, out of which 128 were for berth passengers. Most passengers buy their tickets on board.

Arrangements for feeding the passengers were undertaken by the ship's commissaire.

Ports Closed

Mr. William Anderson, Chief Officer of the "Sai On", followed the previous witness in the box. He said he had no idea how many passengers were on board, what cargo was carried, or its disposition, as that was the responsibility of the commissaire staff, and he did not interfere. He was not responsible for the cargo, but he was not aware of any unmanifested cargo or dangerous goods having been brought on board by passengers.

As regards the grille doors of the two stairways from the "twain deck" to the upper deck, he went to bed at 9 p.m. and he could not say definitely whether they were opened on the night of the fire or not.

The off-side cargo ports are closed when working of cargo ceases on instructions from the Revenue officers.

On the evening of Feb. 3 he went to bed at 9 p.m. and he was first aware of the fire at 5 a.m. the next morning as he was dressing. There was a commotion outside and rushing out he was told by the Chief Engineer that the ship was on fire. He went to the bridge and called the crew to their fire stations. From the top deck he could not see the base colour of the flame, but when he was on the wharf at 5.05 a.m. the flame was red.

The fire was severest above the engine room on main deck. He could give no reason for the fire or its cause, and as far as he knew, no one on board could make up of boards on two tables.

People were running in all directions, and possibly those who ran aft were trapped. He escaped to the wharf through No. 4 cargo port, and others got away through the same exit, but after lower deck and then on to the wharf, from where he saw that the centre of the fire was near the funnel where the commissaire department was located.

The third engineer, Yeung Fong said he was on watch in the engine room, and when he heard shouts of fire he went up to the boat deck by way of the escape ladder to report to the Chief Engineer. He could not go by way of the starboard door owing to the boiler room on fire. The port door was bolted from inside and it never occurred to him to try and get out through it.

The fire pump was in good order. It was used for sanitary purposes, and when he knew the ship was on fire he opened the valve. Pressure was good. The ship's dynamo, too, was in working order, and there was no fusing before the fire started.

(Wu Hang, a member of the ship's commissaire staff, told the Court he was on the wharf collecting charges from passengers for excess baggage, and did not know when or how the fire started, nor the number of people on the main deck. He was standing near the No. 4 cargo port.

Chan Tai-yau, a purchaser for the catering department of the ship, said he was sleeping on two boxes about 10 feet off the stairway leading from the main deck to the upper deck. Near him were some packages of paper but there were no tins.

The last witness called was Pak Chi, a cook on the ship, who said he went on board at 4 a.m. and went to the kitchen in front of the boiler room on the main deck to cook congee. When he heard shouts of fire he rushed to the cook's rice store near No. 4 cargo port, where he saw fire near the starboard stairway. He could not see what was burning, though he and others had used blankets in an attempt to put out the fire. He knew, underneath the wooden counter made up of boards on two tables.

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Girl Said She Was Of Age

London, Feb. 14.

A former soldier, who was not placed on trial until 18 months after the date of the alleged offence with which he was charged, was found not guilty and discharged at Oxford Assizes.

He is Thomas Walte, aged 23, a machine operator, of West Runton, Cromer, who pleaded not guilty to an offence against a girl aged 15 at Henley in or about August, 1945.

His counsel, Mr. Peter Evans, moved to quash the indictment, saying that the information was laid in April, 1946—originally charging an offence in July, 1945 of labour will all be at a standstill when the employees walk out for a public demonstration.

The symbolic strike will last only one afternoon as a "warning" to the Government that employees are not willing to continue without having their wages and indemnity demands satisfied.

State workers object to the fact that industrial workers are on a 48-hour week with the extra eight hours counted as

The alleged offence occurred, according to the prosecution, when the girl was 16 years and 10 months old. Immediately after that date Walte was transferred to the B.A.O.R. and was not interviewed by the police until November, 1945.

Question Of Age

Walte, in a statement, said the girl told him she was 17, and when the mother said her daughter was 15 he questioned her about her age. She insisted she was 17.

When the girl's mother wrote saying her daughter was 16 and later denied responsibility and later thought the matter had been dropped. He got married on May 11, 1946.

The girl, in the witness-box, said she did not remember the discussion about her age. Walte had never asked her age. The child was born on July 1, 1946—11 months after the alleged offence.

The mother admitted that her daughter used make-up and looked older than her age.

In evidence Walte said he had recently been demobilised after five and a quarter years in the Hampshire Regt. When he first met the girl he took her to be 17 or 18 years old. She went with him to public houses and he bought her drinks. There were notices there to the effect, that girls under 16 must not be served.

The Judge: Do you think girls under 16 would pay much attention to those notices?

Walte: I doubt it, my lord.

He had left it was impossible for those in the rear portion of the ship to get to this exit as the fire spreading so rapidly had cut off their escape.

Inspector Clark of the Police Waterfront Unit put it to witness that a lot of litter could have collected underneath the wooden counter since it was seldom swept and people had been known to sleep between it and the space for storing cargo. He admitted that it was possible.

The Court then adjourned to 9.30 a.m. this morning.

Labour "Warning" To Ramadier

Paris, Feb. 13.

Despite pleas by Premier Paul Ramadier, Paris pressmen walked off their jobs to begin the nation's one-day strike movement. The situation is grave since the Premier shows no signs of departing from the Government stand of no wage increases until the battle against rising prices is won.

France's financial situation is far from cheerful. The Finance Minister, M. Robert Schuman, calculates that total expenditure for the year will be 1,150,000,000,000 francs, with a deficit of some 420,000,000,000.

Torn between demands for higher wages and inability to find the money without opening the gate to inflation, the French Government is now faced with a grave strike situation.

Tomorrow afternoon, Government offices, post offices, schools, public utilities and State employment will all be at a standstill when the employees walk out for a public demonstration.

The symbolic strike will last only one afternoon as a "warning" to the Government that employees are not willing to continue without having their wages and indemnity demands satisfied.

State workers object to the fact that industrial workers are on a 48-hour week with the extra eight hours counted as

China's Debt To A German

Nanking, Feb. 14.

Anxious to pay a ten-year-old debt of gratitude, Chinese authorities led by Mayor Shen Yi are earnestly searching for a German who is believed to have saved the lives of thousands of Chinese during the Japanese massacre in 1937.

Word of this German's good deed came out during a city-wide hunt for evidence against Hsiao Tan, former commander of the Japanese division alleged to have been responsible for the notorious "rape of Nanking," and now on trial for his life.

It was learned that the German was on the International Relief Association in Nanking when the Japanese entered the city in December, 1937. He opened refuge shelters and is credited with saving many thousands, yet the Chinese have not been able to yet learn his name. He is reported to have been recalled to Germany in the summer of 1938 and there to have held a series of exhibitions of pictures he took in Nanking in order to show the German public the inhuman conduct of Japanese troops. Rumours successful that the Hitler Government here say the exhibitions were a merit forbade him to continue them under penalty of arrest.

Municipal sources say the mayor by unknown means has received word that the German, now about 60 years old, is still alive with his family in a small town somewhere in Germany and suffering great financial difficulties. If he can be found, the mayor wants to give him help in the name of a grateful Nanking and perhaps invite him and his family back to China to live on a pension.—Associated Press.

BRITISH OIL IN RUMANIA

London, Feb. 13.

The Rumanian Mission in London discloses that British-owned oil companies in Rumania last year produced 21 per cent of the total output of oil.

American-owned companies were responsible for 12 per cent and the Soviet-Rumanian group for 28 per cent.

Output of crude oil last year fell from 4,200,000 tons in 1945 to 3,360,000 tons, or little more than half the pre-war peak.—United Press.

RADIO

ZBW Hong Kong broadcasting on a frequency of 840 kilocycles and from 12.30 to 1.15 p.m., 6.30 to 7.30 p.m., and 9 to 11 p.m. also on 9.52 megacycles.

12.30 p.m.—Daily Programme Summary.

12.32 p.m.—London Transmission Services.

12.47 p.m.—History Day's Tiger-Bagatelle.

1.00 p.m.—News, Weather Report and Announcements.

1.10 p.m.—Orchestral Interlude.

1.15 p.m.—Variety.

1.25 p.m.—Popular Light Classics.

2.00 p.m.—Close Down.

2.30 p.m.—London Transmission and Grand Hotel.

2.40 p.m.—Alfred Sander and His Palm Court Orchestra, with Claude Rilly (Vocal).

2.50 p.m.—London Relay: World News.

7.10 p.m.—London Relay: Home News From Britain.

7.15 p.m.—Radio: "See You" Success Commentary.

7.25 p.m.—Interlude.

7.30 p.m.—Radio: "Unit Requests" Bernie Knott calling I.L.M. "Concert."

8.30 p.m.—London Relay: Wilfred Pickles in "Have a Go!" The "Gala" via London Relay.

8.40 p.m.—London Relay: Musical Illustration by Jack Jordan.

9.00 p.m.—London Relay: News.

9.10 p.m.—Philadelphia: Symphony Orchestra & Lawrence Tibbett (Soprano).

9.40 p.m.—Radio: First Favourites.

10.00 p.m.—Radio: From the Hong Kong Hotel of Fred Carlo and His "Griffe" Dance Orchestra.

11.